

## Feds, State, and NGOs implement a successful eel passage project at Millsboro Pond, DE



*Eelway installation in progress.*

A successful eel passage structure was installed and is being monitored at the Millsboro Pond Dam in Millsboro, DE. As of 15 June 2005, the structure passed approximately 560 eels through the eelway and above the existing dam.

The overall project objective is to install and monitor an American eelway on Millsboro Pond Dam. The structure will allow American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) to swim into critical freshwater habitat. Until recently, the semi-circular, 3' high dam blocked access to the 101-acre pond. The pond itself has been cut off from eel and fish passage since 1792. The site will be monitored by volunteers for fish usage and passage effectiveness.

This project, funded by the FishAmerica Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program, and the Outdoor Cap Company, was completed in cooperation with Delaware state's eel monitoring program. The final design for the eelway was completed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the structure was installed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Fish and Wildlife Division. The Delaware Department of Transportation and the Town of Millsboro also committed time and resources to this important ecological restoration project.

A dedication and unveiling event was held in March of 2005 and was attended by federal, state, and local stakeholders as well as interested citizens and neighbors. Attendees gathered to witness the start of a project that will provide some assistance to one of wildlife's most incredible journeys—that of the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).



*Eelway installation complete.*